Claims

[c1]   A method for facilitating providing a customer with a quote for a manufactured product, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving data relating to a customer desired product including at least one of a feature and a function;

receiving at least one indication of importance for at least one of the feature and the function;

accessing at least one database containing at least one of inventory control data, component data, and image data; and

generating a first quote based on the received data, the received indication, and data stored in the accessed database.

[c2]   A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of translating the received data into a product bill of materials (BOM).

[c3]   A method according to Claim 2 further comprising the step of utilizing the BOM in conjunction with the accessed database to generate at least one of a product price, a product delivery date, a product Z transform estimate, and a three dimensional (3D) image.

[c4]   A method according to Claim 3 further comprising the steps of:

providing at least one of the product price, the product delivery date, the product Z transform estimate, and the 3D image to the customer; and

prompting the customer to iterate a second quote.

[c5]   A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

providing the first quote to the customer; and

prompting the customer to iterate a second quote.

[c6]   A method according to Claim 4 wherein said step of prompting the customer further comprises the step of prompting the customer to enter a different indication of importance for at least one of a feature and a function.

[c7]   A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving at least one indication further comprises the step of receiving an indication of

importance for at least one of a product price, a product size, and a product functionality.

[c8]   A method according to Claim 1 further comprising the step of providing the customer with the generated first quote including a product price, a delivery date, a three dimensional image, and a short-term Z transform estimate.

[c9]   A method for facilitating providing a customer with a quote for a computer numerically controlled (CNC) fabricated product, said method comprising the steps of:
receiving data relating to a customer desired product including at least one of a feature and a function;
receiving at least one indication of importance for at least one of a product price, a product size, and a product functionality;
accessing at least one database containing at least one of inventory control data, component data, and image data;
generating a first quote based on the received data, the received indication, and the accessed database;
providing the customer with the generated first quote including a product price, a delivery date, a three dimensional image, and a short-term Z transform estimate; and
prompting the customer to iterate a second quote.

[c10]
A system for facilitating providing a customer with a quote for a manufactured product, said system comprising:
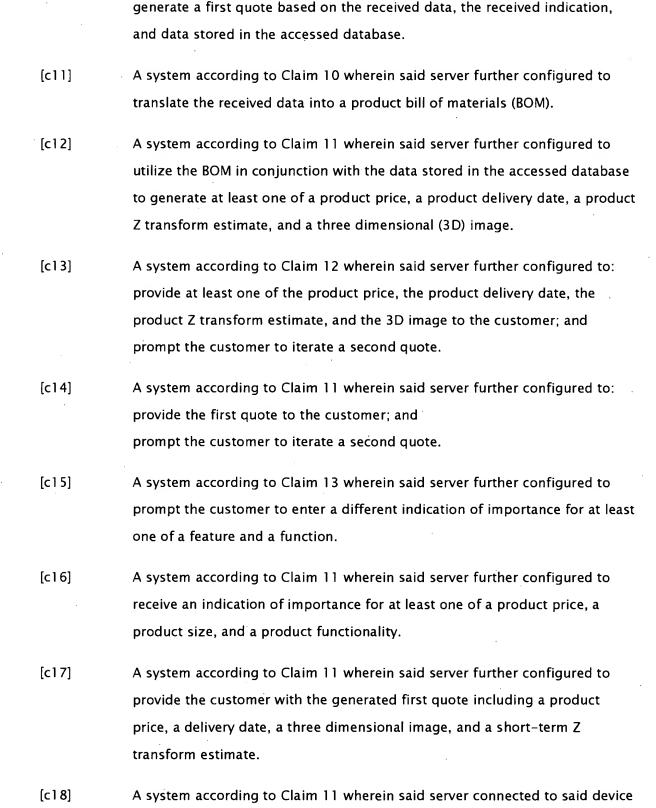at least one device; and
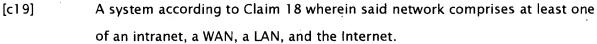a server connected to said device and configured to:
receive data relating to a customer desired product including at least one of a feature and a function;
receive at least one indication of importance for at least one of the feature and the function;
access at least one database containing at least one of inventory control data, component data, and image data; and

generate a first quote based on the received data, the received indication, and data stored in the accessed database.

[c11]   A system according to Claim 10 wherein said server further configured to translate the received data into a product bill of materials (BOM).

[c12]   A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server further configured to utilize the BOM in conjunction with the data stored in the accessed database to generate at least one of a product price, a product delivery date, a product Z transform estimate, and a three dimensional (3D) image.

[c13]   A system according to Claim 12 wherein said server further configured to: provide at least one of the product price, the product delivery date, the product Z transform estimate, and the 3D image to the customer; and prompt the customer to iterate a second quote.

[c14]   A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server further configured to: provide the first quote to the customer; and prompt the customer to iterate a second quote.

[c15]   A system according to Claim 13 wherein said server further configured to prompt the customer to enter a different indication of importance for at least one of a feature and a function.

[c16]   A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server further configured to receive an indication of importance for at least one of a product price, a product size, and a product functionality.

[c17]   A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server further configured to provide the customer with the generated first quote including a product price, a delivery date, a three dimensional image, and a short-term Z transform estimate.

[c18]   A system according to Claim 11 wherein said server connected to said device by a network.

[c19]   A system according to Claim 18 wherein said network comprises at least one of an intranet, a WAN, a LAN, and the Internet.

[c20]   Apparatus comprising:

at least one device; and

a server connected to said device via a network and configured to:

receive data relating to a customer desired product including at least one of a feature and a function;

receive an indication of importance for at least one of a product price, a product size, and a product functionality;

access at least one database containing at least one of inventory control data, component data, and image data;

generate a first quote based on the received data, the received indication, and data stored in the accessed database;

provide the first quote to the customer including a product price, a delivery date, a three dimensional image, and a short-term Z transform estimate; and

prompt the customer to iterate a second quote.